Does he have the permission of the House for remaining absent from the 13th March to 9th May, 2008 of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha?

(No. hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Status of implementation of recommendation contained in the thirty-second, thirty-third And thirty-fourth reports of the department-related parliamentary standing committee on railways

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नारनभाई रठवा): महोदय, मैं विभाग संबंधित रेल संबंधित संसदीय स्थायी समिति के बत्तीसवें, तैंतीसवें और चौंतीसवें प्रतिवेदनों में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के संबंध में एक वक्तव्य देता हूं।

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the twenty-third report of the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on coal and steel

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Sir, I make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-third Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel.

MOTION FOR ELECTION

The Central Advisory Board of Archaeology

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): Sir, I move the following Motion:

"That in pursuance of the provision in paragraph-XVIII of the Government of India (Archaeological Survey of India) Resolution No. 9/4/2004-EE (CABA), dated the 28th April, 2005, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairmah may direct, one Member from among the members of the House, to be a member of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology (CABA)."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Re. Demand for Government's response to the queries raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Zero Hour Mentions. Shri D. Raja.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, yesterday...

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, इससे पहले कि आप Zero Hour Submissions लें, मैं आपके माध्यम से एक जानकारी लेना चाहूंगी कि कल शून्य काल के दौरान नेता प्रतिपक्ष ने एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय उठाया था और यहां संसदीय कार्य मंत्री ने सदन को आश्वस्त किया था कि इसके ऊपर सरकार जवाब देगी। आज दूसरा शून्यकाल आ गया, 24 घंटे बीत गए। मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहूंगी, संसदीय कार्य मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हैं, कि सरकार कब जवाब देगी?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): The hon. Leader of the Opposition had raised certain points. From the Government side, I would like to submit that the Government will come back to the House today itself to inform when they are going to respond to the queries raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. (*Interruptions*)

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, when will they respond?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I said that the Government will come back to the House today and inform when they are going to make their statement. That will be announced today.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: सर, मुझे केवल एक निवेदन करना है कि आज लोक सभा में फाइनांस बिल पारित होगा। हमने अपनी बी॰ए॰सी॰ में लिखा है कि वहां से वह पारित होने के बाद यहां आएगा। अगर कल वह फाइनांस बिल यहां आता है, तो नैचुरली उसकी प्राथमिकता होगी। उसके बाद 1, 2, 3 और 4 मई को छुट्टी है। यह मामला 5 तारीख तक टलना नहीं चाहिए। इसलिए या तो आज दिन में किसी भी समय मंत्री जी यहां आ जाएं और जवाब दें—हमें प्रधान मंत्री जी से जवाब चाहिए -- या फिर कल जवाब दे दें, लेकिन अगर यह कल से आगे टला, तो फिर मामले को टालने वाली बात आ ही जाएगी।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs... (*Interruptions*)

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार): सर, प्रधान मंत्री जी के जवाब की अपेक्षा है। यह बहुत गंभीर विषय है।

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, why is the hon. Member remaining on his legs? ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, to the query of Shrimati Sushma Swarajji, the Minister of State in the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry has responded that today itself he is going to say when they are going to respond. So, let us...

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: मैं when का ही कह रही हूं।

DR. V. MAITREYAN: No, no; Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, it will be known whether it is today or it is tomorrow. Then, this question can be raised. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: यह पूरे देश का विषय बनता है। सारे देश में इस की चर्चा हो रही है।

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, it should not go beyond tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am telling you that question can be raised when he responds. ...(*Interruptions*)... No, no. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is premature to say anything. आप बैठिए, अब इस में गड़बड़ की क्या जरूरत है?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, it should not go beyond tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree. That question will arise when the Minister responds today as to when they are going to respond. That is fine. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: सर, अगर अभी prompt कर देंगे तो वह जवाब लाएंगे, नहीं तो ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: वह सवाल ही पैदा नहीं होता।

डा॰ वी॰ मैत्रेयन: जब तक इस सवाल का जवाब नहीं आता, हम बोलते रहेंगे।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why are you getting agitated? ...(*Interruptions*)... Why are you getting agitated? Please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)... You address the Chair. ...(*Interruptions*)... She is addressing the Chair. You also address the Chair. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)...

डॉ॰ वी॰ मैत्रेयन: उनका ही हक नहीं है, इस में हमारा भी हक है। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I am addressing the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The discussion is unnecessary. The Minister has responded to the query. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: We are the affected party. We want the answer from the Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister has responded to the query. Mr. Maitreyan, please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please sit down.

डॉ॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी (उत्तर प्रदेश): मेरा इतना ही कहना है कि मैंने यह सवाल उठाया था कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी इस बारे में सदन के सामने तथ्य रखें। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जब वह कह रहे हैं कि सरकार की तरफ से जवाब आएगा तो माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी आएंगे या नहीं?

श्री उपसभापति: वहां पर इतना ही कहा है। कि Government will respond. ...(व्यवधान)... Yesterday, the assurance given by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is, for the various issues and points raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Government will respond. And the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has just now said that today itself they will respond. Let us wait for that. ...(*Interruptions*)... Now, we take up the Zero Hour Mentions. Shri D. Raja. ...(*Interruptions*)...

AN HON. MEMBER: When is the Government going to come before the House? ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But, today itself they are going to come. That is the assurance given by the Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)... Now, Shri D. Raja. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री उपसभापति: आप क्यों बोल रही हैं, क्या बात है? आप क्यों बोल रही हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... नहीं-नहीं, यह कैसे होगा? ...(व्यवधान)... I don't understand what is the issue between the Members. ...(*Interruptions*)... There is no issue at all before the House and you are speaking. What is this? ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: सर, कुछ नामों के कारण इश्यू बनता है।

श्री उपसभापति: ऐसा लगता है।

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Fishing rights of indian fishermen and problems Related to Kachchativu Agreement

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I am raising an issue which is important for the rights of the fishermen; it is important for maintaining good neighbourly relations with our neighbouring countries, particularly with Sri Lanka. India is having 7,516 kilometres long coast line along nine States and four Union Territories. Sea accounts for 90 per cent of India's trade by volume. The safety of Indian waters is crucial. India is the third largest producer of fish in the world and the second largest producer of fresh water fish in the world. Having said this, I must see this Kachchativu Agreement in this background. The Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka on the boundary in historic waters was singed in the year 1974. It was signed by Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Article 5 of the Agreement says 'subject to foregoing, Indian fishermen and pilgrims will enjoy access to visit Kachchativu as hitherto and will not be required by Sri Lanka to obtain travel documents for these purposes. Article 6 of the agreement says, "The vessels of India and Sri Lanka will enjoy in each other's waters